



# Foggy Bottom News

March 2003

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and the West End

Volume 45, No. 5

## CHW Developer May Trim Wings

Jeffrey Sherman of Trammell Crow drew laughter from the Foggy Bottom Association meeting in January when he said that this is the very first project he's known about where the community is in favor of a large project and the government is for scaling it down. Sherman is in charge of the proposed development on the site of the Columbia Hospital for Women on L Street.

He testified at a recent hearing, however, that their plans to "bring the building back" are expensive, and that a large project is needed to "pull it off" and make it profitable. There is concern that shrinking the building could affect the retail space currently planned, which they and the residents feel is very important.

The Historic Preservation Review Board, which must approve the building, made a series of comments and requested that the plans be modified to improve the view from Pennsylvania Avenue. One Board member applauded the plans to restore the building, but doesn't want "the additions to overpower it."

Both Sherman and the architect are confident they can work out an acceptable compromise.

The HPRB has scheduled a hearing on the project for Thursday, February 27. It will be held at 441 4th Street (Judiciary Square) at 10:00 a.m. in Room 220 South.

## Historic Homeowners Can Save on Taxes

By Norene Vogt

If you own a historic property in the Foggy Bottom Historic District, read on!

On Monday, March 11, the Foggy Bottom Historic District Conservancy will host a seminar on the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Program. The seminar will take place at St. Mary's Court on 24th Street at 7:30 p.m. in the main dining room.

The program allows historic property owners to donate what is known as a

**Historic**, to page 8

## BZA Campus Plan Order Upheld

By Jim McLeod

On February 4, 2003, in upholding conditions imposed by the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) as part of BZA's approval of a 2001-2009 campus plan for George Washington University (GWU), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rejected constitutional challenges raised by GWU. After two of three judges on the panel first determined that GWU met the property interest standard for the court to consider GWU's challenges, Judge Stephen Williams, writing for the majority, provided answers to many questions, including:

*Was the District Court right in declaring the BZA's transitional housing requirement unconstitutional?* No. The order required GWU to house 5600 (70 percent) of its 8000 undergraduates on campus by September 2006 (and if enrollment grew beyond 8000, one additional bed for each student over 8000). And, taking into account that constructing dorms on campus would take time, the BZA required that between 2002 and 2006, GWU had to house 5600 undergraduates either on campus or outside of Foggy Bottom. GWU noted that because it could not count its more than 1500 beds in Foggy Bottom outside the campus, it would have to acquire temporary accommodations for 1400 students outside Foggy Bottom. The court found that the order did not "improperly encroach" on GWU's "by-right use" of its non-campus Foggy Bottom housing because GWU was free to continue to house students

**Order**, to page 4

## Update

### ANC-2A Names New Officers

At its first meeting of the year, ANC-2A elected the following officers: Dorothy Miller will be Chair, Richard Price Vice-Chair, David Lehrman Secretary, and Josh Singer Treasurer.

At that same meeting the Commissioners approved GWU's application to install two driveways across public

space for the 200-bed dormitory under construction at 23rd & F Streets. They also supported a sidewalk cafe at Agua Ardiente on 24th Street north of M Street.

### GW Corrects Loading Dock and Lights

Following a letter from residents and a subsequent meeting with GW hospital officials, the frequent violations at the loading dock appear to have lessened considerably. Prior to the meet-

ing, infractions at the dock's operation were numerous and disturbing, e.g., excessive noise early in the morning and late at night. Both Harold Talisman, the dock's closest neighbor, and Mel Maeda, who has monitored the dock's early morning operations, told the News that conditions have improved. However, instances of trucks blocking the sidewalk and 24th Street continue.

In addition, the hospital engineer, in response to a series of calls from Ellie Becker, reported that lights at the west end of the mall area are finally working after several months of "shorting out." These replace the lights removed during hospital construction and again insure that that portion of the walkway from the Metro station is well-lighted.

**Update**, to page 2



ANC Commissioners at first meeting of the year: David Lehrman, Josh Singer, Dorothy Miller, Richard Price, and James Lewis. Maria Tyler was absent.

### Whenever It Snows:

All homeowners are reminded that they are obliged by law to clear the public sidewalks in front of their homes. It is also important to clear their front walks to allow for safe mail delivery.

## FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome

Guest Speaker:

**Thomas McCoy**

Campaign Finance Expert

Monday, February 24, 2003

The Melrose Hotel

2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

(Next meeting: Monday, March 31, 2003)



## Becker Beat

### Just Say No!

Kudos and many thanks to the U.S. Court of Appeals for sending FB such a welcome valentine. The decision and the support of city officials have made our day—and week—and month. But—

Crucial to the neighborhood is this issue of the housing of an increasing number of students, many of whom are living outside of the campus boundaries and who, according to the BZA, threaten "the livability and residential character" of Foggy Bottom.

Recent articles in the GW Hatchet hint at many more to come.

—"Applications pour into Rice Hall. The largest stack of applications GW has ever received by this time of year

continues," with 15,500 received, 630 ahead of last year.

—"GW seeks additional housing, . . . at least 500 more beds before the housing lottery. . . ."

—"GW ignores student housing concerns."

—"The University is running out of options in Foggy Bottom. Each year, the incoming class is larger than the graduating class, causing a constant shuffle to fulfill the guarantee of four-year housing. . . ."

—"This is the last in a string of examples of the University finding only short-term solutions to long-term problems."

Here's a solution: to a big bunch of these applicants—

**JUST SAY NO!**

### Hours Cut at West End Library

Due to budget cuts, the hours at the West End Library will be reduced beginning in March. All branch library hours will have shorter hours; those at the main Martin Luther King Library will be maintained.

Starting on March 3, the 24th & L Street branch will be open from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; the hours on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday will be 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It will be closed on Fridays.

The library's expected February 3 reopening following extensive renovations was delayed because new furniture did not arrive in time. Actual opening was Friday, February 14.



Update, from page 1

### Va. Avenue Bridge Nears Completion

Work on the Virginia Avenue underpass is nearing completion, although renovation of the service roadways may be delayed due to GWU's nearby construction. A welcome addition is the renovation of the median strip and the addition of a handsome wrought-iron fence to deter jaywalkers trying to cross at 24th Street.

### Kennedy Center Chooses Architect

The Kennedy Center has chosen an architect and released his proposed plans for the eastern expansion of the performing arts center. Rafael Vinoly was selected to design new buildings and a plaza stretching over the sunken highways and connecting with 23rd and E Streets. The proposed design features buildings to house Washington Opera rehearsal space and other educational areas. Included are a road, walkways and cascading fountains.

The proposal needs to be approved by a number of agencies such as the National Park Service and National Capital Planning Commission.

## Foggy Bottom End of Year Sales Report - Provided to you by Penny Cornett & RE/MAX Capital Realtors

### 2002 Sales

Address	BR	FB	Sold Price
522 21st St NW #509	0	1	\$80,000
1010 25th St NW #206	0	1	\$82,500
522 21st St NW #710	0	1	\$87,000
2030 F St NW #1005	0	1	\$106,500
2030 F St NW #103	0	1	\$109,000
922 24th St NW #714	1	1	\$112,900
922 24th St NW #11	0	1	\$115,000
2030 F St NW #805	0	1	\$116,000
2030 F St NW #205	0	1	\$116,000
940 25th St NW #8175	1	1	\$116,000
955 26th St NW #206	0	1	\$137,500
1010 25th St NW #609	1	1	\$148,000
1010 25th St NW #505	1	1	\$155,000
2401 H St NW #903	1	1	\$161,000
2515 K St NW #601	1	1	\$184,000
9 Snows Ct NW	1	1	\$207,000
12 Snows Ct NW	2	1	\$226,000
2030 F St NW #802	1	1	\$244,950
2700 Virginia Ave NW #905	1	1	\$259,000

Address	BR	FB	Sold Price
955 26th St NW #408	1	1	\$290,000
2500 Virginia Ave NW #305	1	1	\$290,480
806 New Hampshire Ave NW	3	1	\$330,000
2700 Virginia Ave NW #1003	1	1	\$335,000
700 New Hampshire Ave NW	2	2	\$370,000
802 New Hampshire Ave NW	2	1	\$375,000
900 24th St NW #D	3	2	\$382,000
2500 Virginia Ave NW #1007	2	2	\$436,400
2475 Virginia Ave NW #329	3	3	\$507,500
2700 Virginia Ave NW #1503	2	2	\$518,000
700 New Hampshire Ave NW	2	2	\$550,000
700 New Hampshire Ave NW	2	2	\$600,000
800 25th St NW #502	2	2	\$695,000
700 New Hampshire Ave NW	2	2	\$705,000
909 Hughes Mews NW	2	3	\$735,000
2700 Virginia Ave NW #105	4	4	\$816,500
700 New Hampshire Ave NW	3	2	\$900,000
700 New Hampshire Ave NW	3	2	\$950,000
2700 Virginia Ave NW #301	3	4	\$1,000,000

**Hello Neighbor!** The year 2002 was a fabulous year for homeowners selling real estate. The year 2003 will once again be a "Seller's Market" and now is the time for owners to take advantage of a "hot" market. If you plan to sell, call me and let me put my 17 years of experience to work for you. I have a wonderful marketing plan and I can and will get you top dollar for your investment.

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### Penny Cornett

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This information was obtained from the multiple listing service (MLS). Does not indicate that RE/MAX Capital Realtors participated in the sale of all the properties.

March 2003

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## FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. Its 5,500 copies are distributed to residences and businesses in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor and writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

Editor

Ad Manager

To place ads, call Rita Champagne at 293-1439. Cost for classified ads is 60 cents per word; a 2-inch high by 2-column wide ad—the smallest available, is \$38.50.

April issue: to be distributed March 28-29

Copy deadline: March 13; camera-ready: March 20

Ellie Becker

Rita Champagne

## FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

c/o West End Library

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### 1957 E Street Case Continues

The controversy involving a new GWU building on E Street continued at a recent Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing. The West End Citizens Association testified that the university failed to satisfy the conditions of an agreement reached with WECA. Also, ANC-2A has argued that the building should not have been allowed to be built under a planned unit development arrangement with past owners which was issued for non-university use.

The building received a certificate of occupancy and part is now being used as a dormitory, and will house GWU's Elliott School of International Affairs.

### St. Mary's To Sponsor Trip

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's Episcopal Church are sponsoring a trip on Thursday, April 3, to see "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at the Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater, Wilmington, Delaware. Cost is \$65.00 per person. Our package includes lunch at 12:00 noon and the matinee show at 2:00 p.m. The bus will depart from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 728 23rd Street, N.W., at 8:30 a.m. and return at approximately 7:30 p.m. Payments may be made in installments, with final payment due on Monday, March 10. If interested, call 703-790-1223 or the church office at 333-3985.

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# Foggy Bottom Lauds Appeals Victory

Residents of the Foggy Bottom/West End area are celebrating the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals which reinstates the major provisions of the campus plan set by the Board of Zoning Adjustment two years ago.

It is a decision of great significance, for our neighborhood and many others across the country.

According to FBA President Ron Cocome, "the greatest threat to our residential community came not only from the 'corporate' university but from our own city government's acquiescence to that corporation.

"Now, however, the city not only acted to protect our community but strenuously defended that action in our courts.

"The hope now must be for the enforcement of what has been legally provided. That is now both the hope and the challenge before us.

"We may not yet be able to give a sigh of relief but we can at least put a smile on our faces and perhaps a sparkle in our eyes."

## December FB Sales Brisk

Despite cold weather and the holidays, Foggy Bottom real estate sales were brisk in December. Many residents would hate moving at Christmastime, but others do so for a variety of reasons, perhaps bargains being at the top of the list. (It's certainly easier for moving vans to park during the holiday break!)

Below are listed sales from late October to early January, supplied by Caroline Coates and Suzanne Foss of Coates Realty (333-0017).

Address	Bldg.	Bed/ Bath	Sale Price	Date
1001 26th	P. Overlook	1/1	255,000	10/31
2555 Pa.	Westbridge	1/1	420,000	11/15
1001 26th	P. Overlook	1/1	242,000	11/26
2700 Va.	WG West	2/2	835,000	11/26
2209 Pa.	#3	2/2	520,000	12/3
730 24th	P.Plaza Terr.	1/1	142,000	12/4
700 N.H.	WG South	1/1	295,000	12/10
2555 Pa.	Westbridge	2/2	575,000	12/27
2209 Pa.	#1	1/1	245,000	12/27
2515 K	Bader	1/1	179,000	12/30
955 26th	Griffin	0/1	193,000	1/14
2475 Va.	Potomac Plaza	2/2	346,000	1/17
2401 H	Bonwit Plaza	1/1	175,000	1/19
940 25th	Claridge	0/1	98,000	1/25



## Domenica Morisi

Longtime resident Domenica Morisi, who lived in the 2100 block of F Street, died on February 3 at the age of 96. Ms. Morisi moved to F Street in 1928 as a young lady, and was employed by the Export-Import Bank, the Small Business Administration and other government agencies. After retirement she worked for 13 years at the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Ms. Morisi attended St. Stephen Martyr Church and was known for her wide knowledge of our neighborhood. She has been at a Manor Care facility since breaking her hip several years ago, and recently broke her other hip. She is survived by a sister and brother, and will be missed by neighbors and friends in our area.

## Paul Strang

Paul Denune Strange, who moved to St. Mary's Court in 1995, died February 2, at the age of 90. Strang was a writer and publisher of

# Campaign Finance Is FBA Meeting Topic

On Monday, February 24, the Foggy Bottom Association will present a talk by Thomas McCoy, widely recognized as an expert on campaign finance. Involved with campaigns and fund-raising since the Eugene McCarthy era, McCoy has testified frequently on bills proposed by the Congress since 1974, as well as appearing on radio and television and written numerous articles on the subject. His opposition to current legislation stems from his belief that "it just doesn't work." Prior to his campaign work, he spent some time in the World War II OSS and later the CIA.

The meeting will be held at the Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. at 7:30 p.m. All residents are welcome, whether they are FBA members or not.

books about rare breeds of dogs, and he appropriately had designated the Washington Humane Society as the recipient of memorial contributions. The Court held a "celebration of his life" on February 15.

## Margaret L. MacDonough

On February 4, Margaret "Marge" MacDonough died of respiratory failure at the age of 94 in her apartment in The Thomas House on Massachusetts Avenue. She lived in Foggy Bottom at Munson Hall (now a GW dorm) and at the Excelsior until ten years ago. She first came to D.C. in 1939 to work at the War Department's Ordnance Office and continued at the Department of Defense until her retirement. In 1977 she volunteered in the Correspondence Section of the White House and served under five

Presidents. She was very active at St. Stephen Martyr Church as a member of its Sodality and Sanctuary Society, and helped with fund-raising. Her generosity is evident at the church, to which she donated the cross atop the bell tower, the small bell, and the tabernacle.

## Julius Epstein

The pharmacist-owner of a drugstore formerly located at 21st and I Streets, Julius Epstein, died in early January. He and his wife, Shirley, ran the store which had an oldtime soda fountain and became a hangout for regular customers who came from the State Department and other nearby offices. He was born in Lithuania, and received his pharmacy degree from GWU. He retired in 1992 after 45 years at his store, the Park Lane.

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## St. Mary's Welcomes Rev. Philip Cato

The Reverend Philip Cato is now Priest-in-Charge at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on 23rd Street, directing the Church's activities until the future ministry of the parish can be determined.

Father Cato has been an Episcopal priest for 43 years, serving in a variety of capacities. He was a university chaplain and teacher at North Carolina State University and at Georgia Tech. He earned a Ph.D. at Emory University after graduating from Duke University and the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He served as a Naval Reserve Chaplain for 30 years, retiring with the rank of captain.

In addition to serving parish churches in North Carolina, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia, he has done conflict management for several major corporations. In recent years he has worked

out of his own consulting firm, rebuilding troubled and transitional parishes as well as doing organizational development and conflict resolution for other entities. Fr. Cato also does ethics work for NIH and the Medical School of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Most recently he served at All Saints' Church, Chevy Chase, Maryland; he also is the Bishop of Washington's representative to the Washington Council of Churches.

A major concern for him at St. Mary's is restoring the landmark church which has sustained water and termite damage over the years, but most recently it has suffered some structural damage which may have occurred during the construction of GW's adjoining Health & Wellness Center. The parish has already made repairs to the roof and repointed the brick walls, and there are indications that the university's construction company will help in the restoration.

The church proper has been closed for nearly a year, necessitating holding services in the Parish Hall. The church is over 100 years old and was designed by James Renwick. It features a signed Tiffany window, some priceless French windows and della Robbia Stations of the Cross. St. Mary's is on the National Register of Historic Buildings. The parish hopes to complete its restoration by spring.

## Court Rules Against Watergate West

In late January, the D.C. Court of Appeals ruled that the use of the former Howard Johnson Hotel as a dormitory does not violate either zoning regulations or the D.C. Comprehensive Plan. Watergate West, a cooperative apartment building across Virginia Avenue, had appealed to the Board of Zoning Adjustment and then to the Court in an effort to overturn the decision of the zoning administrator to allow the conversion from a hotel to a dormitory.

The Court reiterated that zoning regulations require that a so-called "special exception" be granted for a dormitory within the campus, but that does not apply outside the campus. Also at issue was the cooperative's assertion that the Zoning Administrator granting a certificate of occupancy was not consistent with D.C.'s Comprehensive Plan. A section of that plan states that GWU's failure to construct dormitories on campus has aggravated the "loss of . . . housing stock . . . in Foggy Bottom/West End."

The decision of the United States Court of Appeals, handed down just after this ruling and described elsewhere in this issue, reaffirmed the right of D.C. zoning officials to regulate the growth of campuses.

Order, from page 1

there. (Five days before this U.S. Court of Appeals decision, the local D.C. Court of Appeals upheld GWU's use of the former Howard Johnson Hotel as a dorm.) And, if it did so, in total GWU could supply housing for 85 percent of its undergraduate students.

Was BZA's condition that GWU not be permitted to construct nonresidential buildings unless it had first met its housing requirements a violation of the constitution? No. The court found this condition increased GWU's incentive to comply with the BZA housing requirements and it "keeps housing and non-housing growth proceeding in parallel."

Did the BZA Order reflect hostility of Foggy Bottom residents to students? The Court found that GWU offered no evidence to support "group animus" as being the basis for the BZA Order distinguishing students from others. In deciding whether GWU was deprived of substantive due process, the court was not persuaded by GWU's assertion that the order violated local anti-discrimination laws against persons enrolled as students. As for the condition that freshmen and sophomores live on campus—a GWU-initiated proposal that GWU later challenged—the court found it met due process standards.

Did the BZA order and D.C.'s zoning regulations violate, respectively, GWU's First Amendment rights to academic freedom and the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment? No. The court found the order simply required GWU to house its students in a way to preserve the surrounding neighborhoods. And because "universities are larger, make more intensive use of their land, and have greater spillover effects on neighboring communities" the two-stage zoning approval process for universities was not an equal protection violation.

Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson agreed with Chief Judge Douglas Ginsburg and Judge Williams about finding no constitutional violations by the BZA, but in her concurring opinion she disagreed that GWU had a constitutionally protected property interest.

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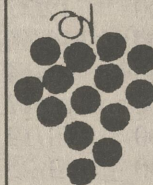
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## KC Jazz Club: Your Neighborhood, World-Class Bistro

By Roz Freund

Foggy Bottom folks take heart! A hop, skip and a jump from your front stoop is a bistro with uptown class and downtown jazz at affordable prices (\$22.50 per person per set).

The Kennedy Center Jazz Club (KCJC) presents jazz music in an intimate setting that showcases virtuoso talent such as sax player James Carter, while offering patrons food and drink during the performance. Carter, on a Friday evening in January, really went to town, making astonishing sounds! The Carter performance was enhanced by sidemen Gerard Gibbs on Hammond B3 organ and Leonard King, Jr., on drums who, with smiles, acknowledged Carter's extraordinary musicality.

The current KCJC series ends on Saturday, March 1, with vocalist Karrin Allyson.

From March 7-23, KCJC presents performers from Mexico, Central America and the South American Andean region. (Viva la jazz).

For tickets call the Kennedy Center box office, 467-4600, or just walk on over and check out the scene.

## Critic's Corner



By Bob Anthony

### African Art Presents "In and Out of Focus..."

The National Museum of African Art's latest exhibition, "In and Out of Focus: Images from Central Africa, 1885-1960," goes beyond being another superficial black and white photographic retrospective. This show of nearly 200 works is a serious look at the role of photography in the formation of the image of the people of Africa. Starting with one-dimensional 19th-century colonial stereotypical pictures of the dark continent, this exhibit leads up to how Africans came to use photos to create how they wanted to be viewed... both in their posing for photographs and their manipulations of the medium. Particularly compelling are the portraits and postcards by Casimir Zagourski, a Polish photographer who operated a studio in Leopoldville. This exhibit is well worth a visit... both for its artistic merit and the interesting anthropological questions it poses on the way we see others. (To 3/1/03... reviewed by Sheila Wickowski).

### Freer & Sackler Show Chola Bronzes

The Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery has a mar-

velous showing of Chola Bronzes from South India, "The Sensuous and the Sacred." They invigorate with their sensuality and one learns quite a bit about religious icons and idols and their numerous transmutations. The show was curated perfectly with live flower suggestions to show how colorfully the Hindus dress their religious pieces. Actually a few of them are also clothed in vibrant colors. It is probably the most exotic show in town and may well satisfy your yearnings to visit this Asiatic country or maybe even offer greater encouragement for such a trip. The Sackler fully describes how these bronzes are created through the wax process which assures that each one has individual markings. And the catalogue will be a superb gift...it is so very, very colorful and informative. (To 3/9/03)

### Gallery West Wing Has Must-See Vuillard Show

The National Gallery of Art (West Wing) has a must-see show of the works of Edouard Vuillard that is a multi-view look at this French artist's works that reflects all of the art styles during his lifetime. Probably the most successful are his theatre posters for their simplicity and the late portraits that are ablaze with environmental colorations yet prove that he could finely define facial characteristics of his subjects... not true of his earlier work that sometimes looked like paint by the numbers. But there is true genius that comes through throughout his life's work as he ranged from violent passion to utter simplicity on his canvases. Especially exciting are his "The Public Gardens," nine huge picturizations of the Tuileries Gardens and the Bois de Boulogne simply blazing with colorations and emotions. He also dabbled in photography but the limits of photography of his age disallowed sophisticated or moving photos but the artist eye is still discernable. This is a huge show so think in terms of spending a half a day to totally appreciate it. This exhibit goes on to Montreal, Paris and London... so save the trip money and see it here. (To 4/20/03)

## Foggy Bottom Folks

FB's "Littlest" Folks: Recently encountered at 24th & I Streets were **Hakim-Rashid**, who will turn 3 on June 13, and baby sister **Nabila**, who will celebrate her first birthday an April 26; they live at the Claridge House with parents **Omar Ibn Abdul-Malik** and **Aaliyah Alim**. Potomac Plaza also has two petite folks, **Anna Angelica**, 4-1/2 years, and 1-year old **Isabel Veronica**, of the **Nickel** family. In the Monroe House resides a 3-year old daughter of a Russian family. Unfortunately, 2-1/2-year old **Antonio de Leo** moved out of Potomac Plaza Terraces in December.

Do go and see Foggy Bottom artist **Charles Bolmar**'s paintings on exhibit at the Watergate Gallery. Mr. Bolmar, a resident of Potomac Plaza, has captured some enchanting views along Rock Creek Park, as well as letting us into the inner sanctum of his building with a depiction of activity in the laundry room! Surely, a first at this gallery.

And kudos to another Foggy Bottom artist, **Bernard Mozer**, who lives at Potomac Plaza Terraces. His imaginative pottery creations were featured in the December

open house show at his art studio on R Street, N.W.

FB's School Without Walls Senior High School is proud of student **Sabrina Snell**, a finalist in a prestigious national science competition. One of 40 finalists, she is competing for the Intel Science Talent Search's prize of a \$100,000 college scholarship. Her special interest lies in astronomy, and she has interned during the last four summers at the National Observatory.

There is a GWU graduate student who lives on K Street who played a large part in the production of this issue of the Foggy Bottom News. He is **Chris Barylick**, and he really knows Mackintosh computers. His expertise guided the editor through some confused and deadline-facing days at her new keyboard. He is truly a consultant worth his hire.

**Robert "Bob" Sargent**, who resided at St. Mary's Court until last October, is now living in Milton, Florida, in an apartment located on his niece's 4-acre property. He reported via a phone call that he has made new friends there but misses those he left behind in Foggy Bottom, as well as "seeing tall buildings."

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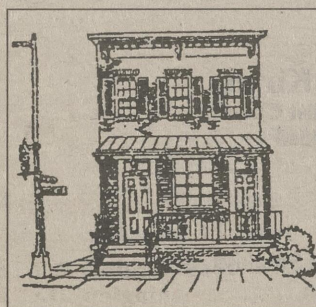
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## People, Pasta and Presentation Abound at Testa's New La Perla

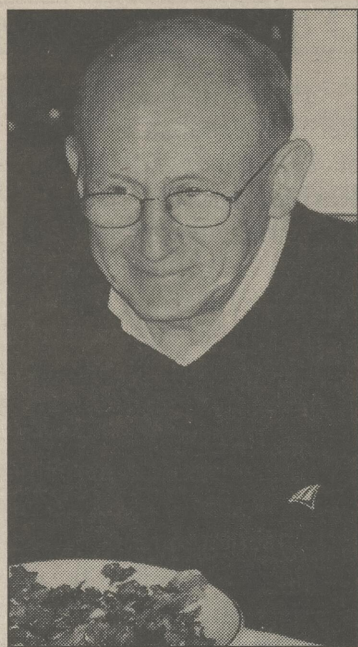
By W. E. (Trez) Lee

La Perla, Washington's newest Italian restaurant, is a welcome addition to our neighborhood, recently hard hit by restaurant closings instead of grand openings. And grand it is. Finding it here on my street was like finding a pearl in an oyster.

Imaginatively decorated through art, light, color, mementos, plants and food displays, La Perla is an exciting visual treat. The food is very good, its menu exceptional and its prices about what you should expect for fine cuisine in this location.

At 2600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Ristoranti La Perla is strategically located at the point where Foggy Bottom, the West End and Georgetown meet. It sits on the eastern end of the Rock Creek bridge with the Four Seasons Hotel on the west. The new Ritz-Carlton is nearby on the east and the Watergate complex can be seen from La Perla's entrance.

Expect courtesy and attention at La Perla. Chef-owner Vittorio Testa is a well-known restaurateur and an accomplished chef. He has put together an unusual mix of people, drawing heavily on his impressive experience at several Washington area restaurants. "Victor" Testa has previously established such landmarks as Leonardo da Vinci, Philomena, Il Borgo



Chef-owner Vittorio Testa daily samples every item on the menu.

and Mona Lisa. His da Vinci and Philomena at Wisconsin below M have been favorites for visiting dignitaries and heads of state for years. Under Testa's reign, Philomena was the site of a famous Georgetown feeding frenzy shared by President Clinton and West Germany's food-loving Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Much of Testa's staff joined him here from his earlier restaurants. For instance, you are likely to be courteously greeted by veteran dining room manager Renzo Barreda or have your coat taken by Nora Andrade—both of whom rejoined Testa's staff. Others are well-trained newcomers and students, such as Ashley O'Dell and Joy, our dinner waitress who was born in Mongolia. Esuado Acuna who served my lunch has roots in Portugal by way of Peru. "Sam" (short for Issam) is a native of Morocco with

experience at another neighborhood Italian restaurant. Each of these La Perla people is bright, friendly and provided good service.

My dinner companion and I chose to plan our meal with costs, exotic dishes and food-sharing in mind. The restaurant obligingly divided and served each item separately. So, we each had crema regina de mare, a lobster and shrimp creme soup served with angel hair pasta. I was disappointed that it was not the light, cream bisque that is a special favorite of mine. However, this tasty rich soup was a pleasant surprise. It was delicious with a hint of a light cheddar flavor.

### Two Huge Shrimp

The gamberoni borgo pio was two jumbo—no, make that two *huge*—shrimp mixed with coconut and orange sauce (\$12). In case you are counting, that comes to six bucks per shrimp, but it was incredibly good. This truly exotic treat was beautifully presented on orange slices.

Liguine Vittorio (\$22) was a delectable entree with medallions of lobster in garlic, dry vermouth, shallots, various herbs, spices and sundried tomatoes. Like several dishes from this kitchen, it was slightly salty for my taste, but delicious.

Vitello Piccante featured very tender veal medallions sauteed with butter, lemon and wine. It had the richest, tangiest taste of any veal dish I have ever had. I loved it, but if your taste runs to the delicate, do not order this Vitello piccante.

Many entrees are served with a side of spaghetti or vegetables, and these two did. The spaghetti is a plain, simple pasta served in a delightful red sauce. The generous

portion of tasty vegetables included squash, eggplant, zucchini, red and green peppers, mushrooms and onions sauteed in a rich red sauce with pinenuts and raisins. It was also delicious.

With dinner, we selected a half-bottle of Alexander Valley California Chardonnay (\$14) from the extensive wine list. Total dinner bill including tax, food and wine, was \$85.80, plus tip. We did not order dessert, but Joy, our waitress, brought out a stunning tray of pastries and told us to select one on the house. Again, Deidre and I shared. We split a sinfully-light white chocolate cake slice that almost floated off the plate. The fresh fruit cream pastry was incredible. All desserts are La Perla's own creations.

### Lunches Were Bargains

The next week I came in for lunch visits to discover many of the same great dishes, but at lower prices. The lentil soup (\$4.50) was excellent. At \$8.50 the oysters cocktail was an incredible misnomer. It was a single oyster—just one. So make that "oyster cocktail." In case you're counting, that's \$8.50 per oyster. But the menu gives no warning, no happy promise that the oyster served would be *eight inches* wide. It was the largest, most tender and succulent oyster imaginable. I learned that this giant variety takes about seven years to grow. It is harvested at a depth of 75 feet by scuba divers off the Azores. I kept the shell and it now sits cleaned and pristine in my shell collection. Eight inches!

At lunch, the rockfish tirollesse (\$16) was sauteed in vinaigrette, white wine, herbs and tomatoes. The serving was so thick that it didn't crumble

the way I enjoy seeing this extra white flaky fish fall, but the huge serving was much preferable. The rockfish was served on a soft, thin pillow of eggplant. Lunch was very good, huge and a real bargain.

Prices were even lower at a specially-priced early dinner for all D.C. students offered to entice the neighboring George Washington and Georgetown college crowd to fine food. Marymount and George Mason students also come in for this reduced-price menu which is offered only between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. During this 1-1/2 hour time period students may order one salad appetizer, one entree and unlimited nonalcoholic beverages for \$13. Spaghetti is also included. Not every entree or appetizer is available. At 13 bucks this is a great food bargain and turns early dinner into an education subsidy.

For my taste some La Perla's dishes were slightly over-seasoned. But *every* sauce, *every* bite was good and flavorful at *every* meal. The food was exciting and its presentation appealing.

Many years ago Vittorio Testa named his first restaurant in his native Italy La Perla. His latest creation is also a pearl. If only one had come in my eight-inch lunch-eon oyster. Ah, well.



Trez, your FBN reviewer, sadly found no pearl in this giant 8-inch oyster.

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#### Worship Services

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English Services every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

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## Neighborhood Datebook

### Here's a special date for your calendars:

*Foggy Bottom/West End neighbors, come on down to our "Little Neighborhood Theater" and check out the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage's Sixth Anniversary celebration on Sunday, March 2, 6:00 p.m. There will be performances at both the north and south ends of the Grand Foyer. Food and drink will be available as usual. Come early. The red carpet is rolled out for you.*

**Monday, February 24:** Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with Thomas McCoy speaking on campaign finance legislation and reform. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. All residents welcome. 7:30 p.m.\*

**Thursday, February 27:** Hearing before the Historic Preservation Review Board on the concept and additions for the project at Columbia Hospital for Women. The hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., and the CHW matter is listed fifth on the tentative agenda. The exact time is to be announced later. 441 4th Street, N.W., Room 220 South. Info: 442-8800.

**Thursday, February 27:** Senior Advantage Seminar on Aging, Agility & Arthritis, covering treatment, diet, exercise, and joint replacement info. Presented by orthopedic surgeons Randall J. Lewis, M.D., and Anthony S. Unger, M.D. 2:00-4:00 p.m.\*\*

**Thursday-Sunday, February 27-March 2:** "The Laramie Project," a play investigating the reactions of people in a small community to a hate crime in their hometown, will be presented at the Dorothy Betts Marvin Theatre, 800 21st Street, N.W. Info: 994-6178. \$10; students \$8. Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, March 2:** Pancake Breakfast hosted by Father Val Keveny, who served at St. Stephen Martyr Church for many years. The pre-lenten event has become a tradition, with Fr. Val hosting and "doing all the cooking" of pancakes, eggs, sausages, orange juice and bread. St. Stephen's Parish Hall,

2436 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (enter on 25th Street). \$7.00. 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Monday, March 3:** Concert by The Texas Boys Choir, featuring music by Palestrina, Byrd, Handel, and American composers and arrangers. United Church, 1920 G Street, N.W. Info: 331-1495. Free-will offering will be requested. 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 5:** Bladder Cancer: Disease, Treatment, and Prevention, presented by Michael Manyak, M.D., Chair, GW Hospital Department of Urology. 7:00 p.m.\*\*

**Wednesday, March 19:** An Evening with William Wegman discussing "his dogs with their endearing deadpan presence" and his series of books for children and adults. Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$20; members \$16. 7:00 p.m.†

**Wednesday, March 19:** Lumbar Spinal Stenosis causes and treatments, presented by neurosurgeon Frederic Schwartz, M.D. 7:00 p.m.\*\*

**Tuesday, March 25:** Spring Fashions 2003 with Robin Givhan of The Washington Post guiding spring wardrobe selections. Corcoran Gallery of Art, \$16; members \$12. 7:00 p.m.†

**Wednesday, March 26:** Concert and Reception, with Chilean singer Cecilia Echenique. Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$20; members \$15. 7:00 p.m.†

**Thursday, March 27:** Jenny McKean Moore Readings Series presents James McCourt, fiction and essay writer. Marvin Center, 3rd Floor Amphitheater, 800 21st Street, N.W. Info: 994-6180. 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 28:** Opening reception for Beverlee Ahlin's exhibit "Zen Again" at the Watergate Gallery, 2552 Virginia Avenue, N.W. 6:30-8:00 p.m. On Saturday, March 29, Ms. Ahlin will present a painting demonstration and talk at the Gallery, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

\*See article elsewhere in this issue.

\*\*Info & registration: 1-888-4GW-DOCS. Location: GW Hospital Auditorium, 900 23rd Street, N.W.

†500 17th Street, N.W. Info: 639-1770.

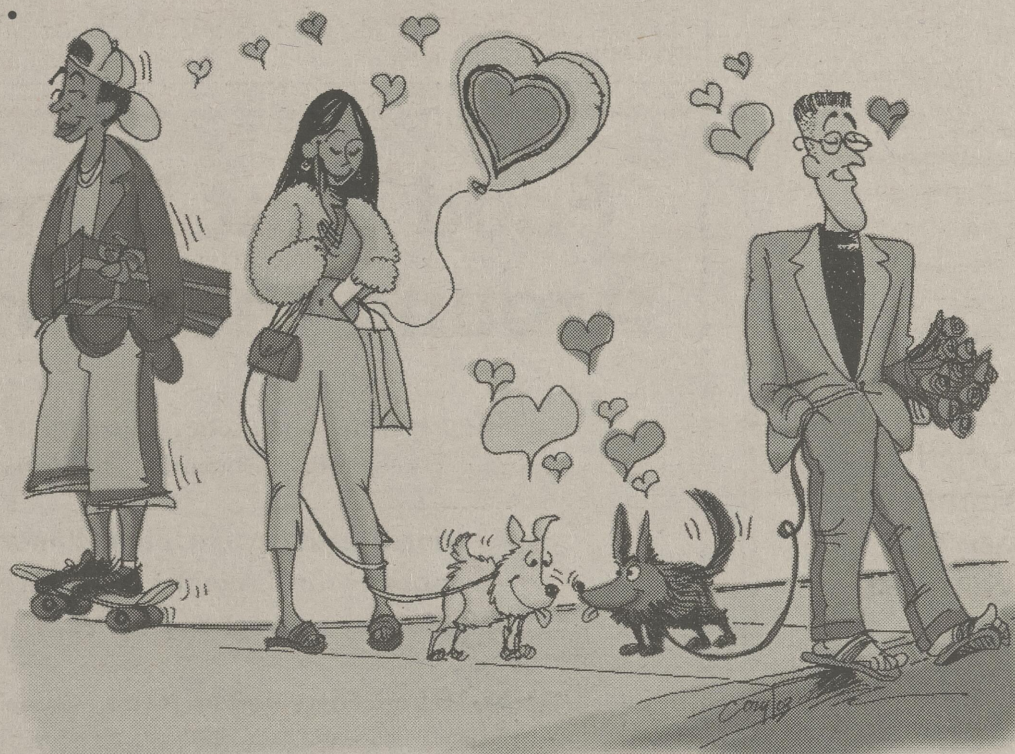
## Actions & Efforts



Near the intersection of 25th Street and New Hampshire and Virginia Avenues is a wide walkway atop a bridge over the Potomac River Freeway. At the eastern end are two sets of steps, one of which over the years has suffered broken-off portions, causing a dangerous situation. **Ralph Burr**, who lives in the Plaza next door, has been successful in bringing about the repair of the steps. The work was done by National Park Service employees who religiously tend to the nearby Juarez Circle, site of lovely trees and even lovelier flowers each season.

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<b>Grillfish Restaurant</b> 1200 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. 15% off food purchases (not alcohol)	331-7310 Fax: 331-3751
<b>Kaffe de Cafe</b> 2175 K Street, N.W. 10% off everything we sell (food, gift, drinks, books, etc.)	331-1223 Fax: 331-8776
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\*New listing as of February 2003

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### Tour, from page 1

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The easement donation program should not be confused with programs that require reconstruction or restoration, or opening of your property to the public. None of this applies to the easement program.

To register for the seminar, please call 797-8271 and ask for or enter extension 13. The individual who takes the reservation will be able to answer any questions and will record name, address and phone number of callers in the event of rescheduling or some unforeseen problem.

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